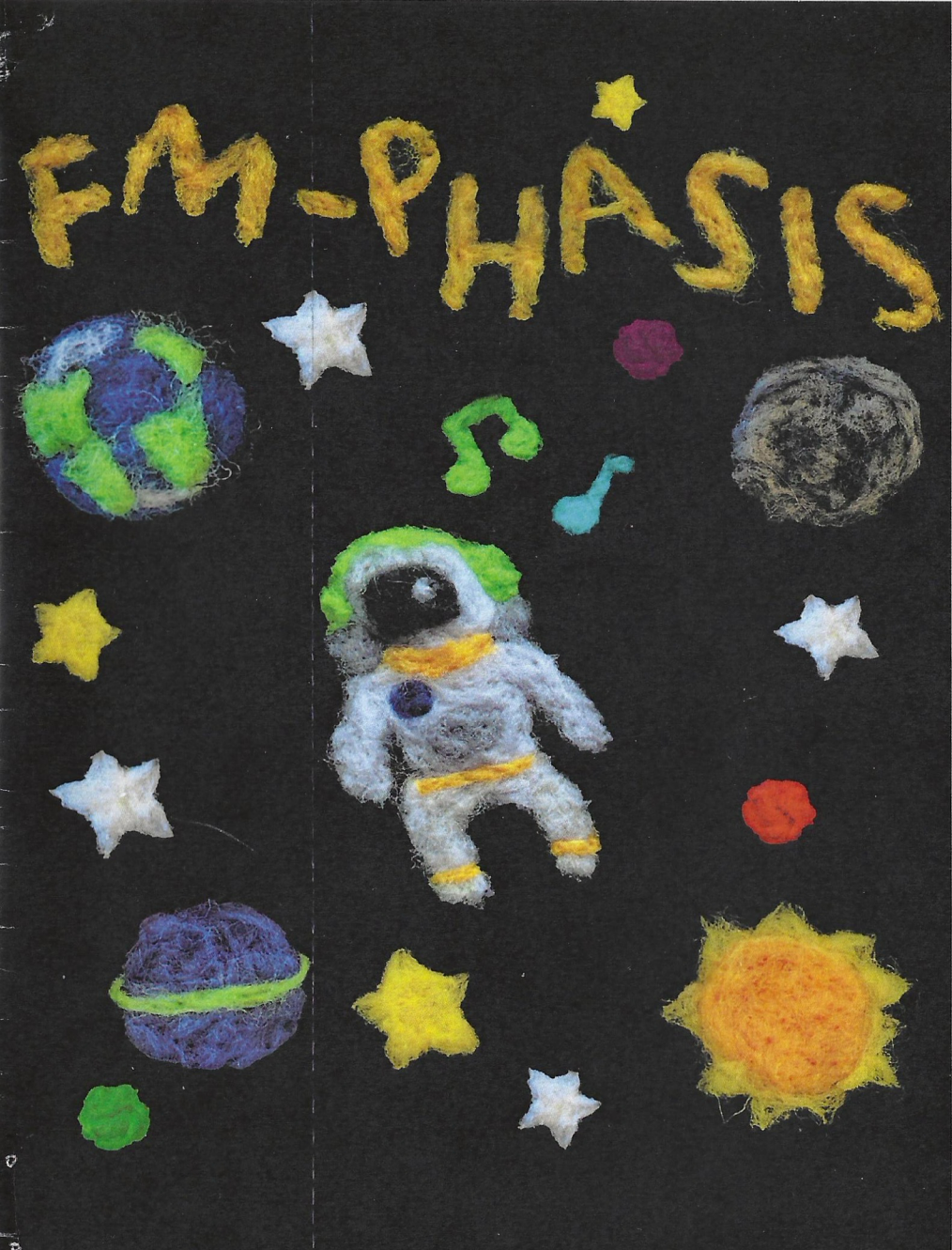
FM-PHASIS

Welcome to FM-Phasis! When I took the role of creative director, my main goal for the year was to get the WRMC zine back up and running. It took some time and a few false starts, but we finally got to what you are holding in your hands (or reading online) right now. Thank you so much to Ellie, Sky, Maya, Grace, every single contributor, and the entire WRMC exec board for helping to make something really special. I <3 college radio!!!!!!!!!!!!

- Neel

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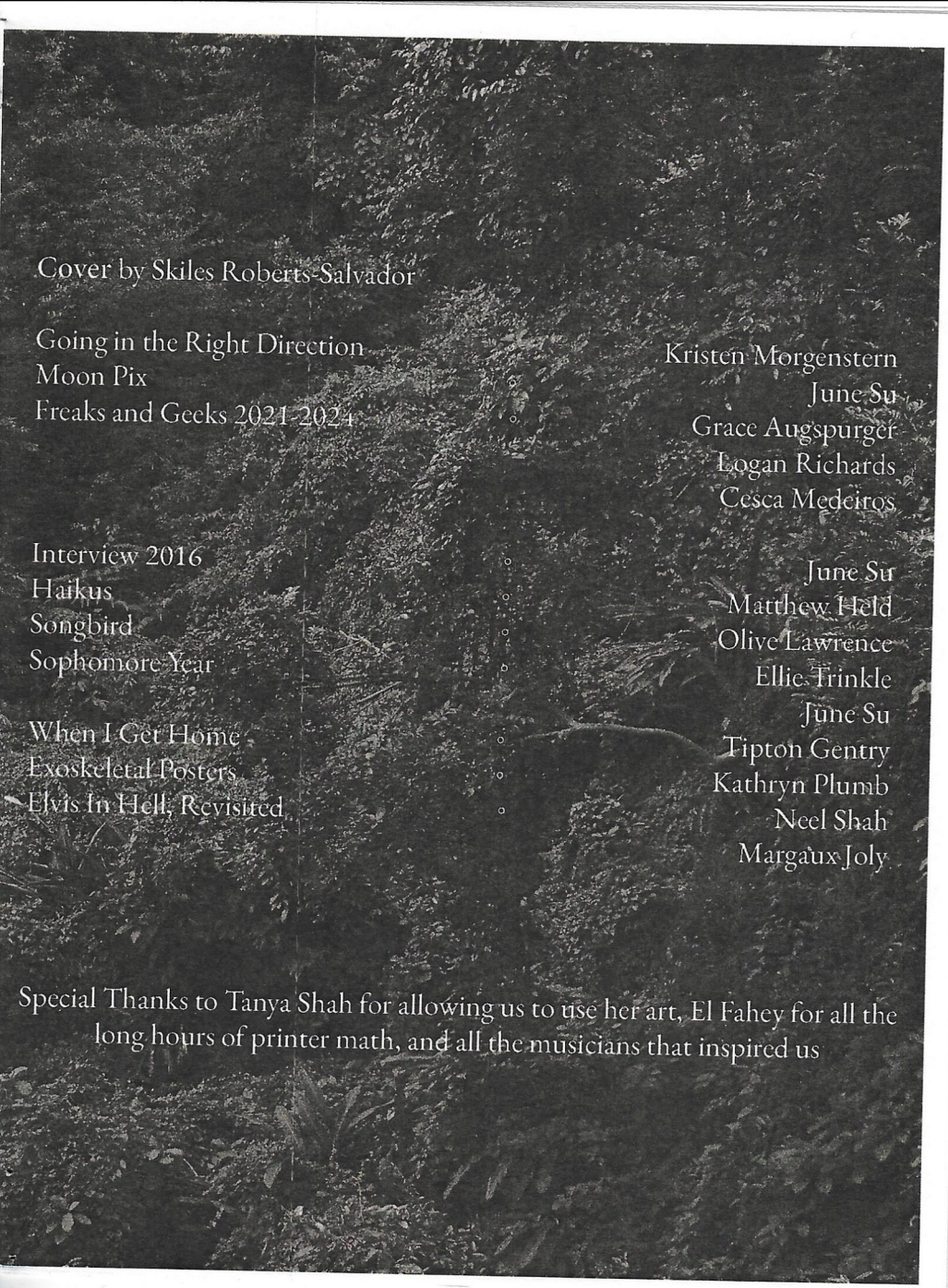

Cover by Skiles Roberts-Salvador

Going in the Right Direction — Kristen Morgenstern
Moon Pix — June Su
Freaks and Geeks 2021-2024 — Grace Augspurger
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Interview 2016 — June Su
Haikus — Matthew Held
Songbird — Olive Lawrence
Sophomore Year — Ellie Trinkle

When I Get Home — June Su
Exoskeletal Posters — Tipton Gentry
Elvis In Hell, Revisited — Kathryn Plumb
Neel Shah
Margaux Joly

Special Thanks to Tanya Shah for allowing us to use her art, El Fahey for all the long hours of printer math, and all the musicians that inspired us

Going in the Right Direction:

1D from 1 to 5

By Kristen Morgenstern
One Direction aficionado

#1 Niall Horan

Irish lad; unproblematic fave. Take Ed Sheeran and make him less cringe, take Lewis Capaldi and give him more than one hit, and from there you get singer-songwriter Niall Horan. With his earnest smile, contagious laughter, and simple guitar tunes, Niall's concerts are one-of-a-kind. His best song "Finally Free" comes from the 2018 animated movie Smallfoot starring Channing Tatum and Zendaya. Other hits include your future wedding song (and mine), "This Town," and "On My Own," the emotional continuation of One Direction's "Act My Age". Other favorites are "The Show," "Paper Houses," and "Cross Your Mind."

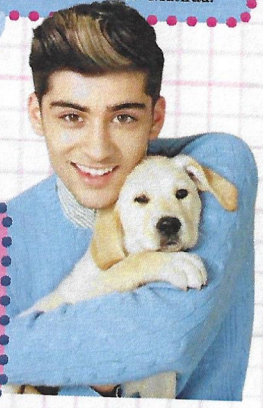
Louis Tomlinson #2

Sassy little guy; I won't talk about larry... (cannot get canceled via zine for my associations to this ship). A sweetheart to his fans who has created a really fun community across the globe. Attend a Louis Tomlinson concert and EVERYONE in the audience will have a tattoo related to him and his music. He has gone in the direction (no pun intended) of making guitar-heavy rock music, and for that I respect him. Check out Louis' covers of Catfish and the Bottlemen's "7" and Arctic Monkeys' "505." From his own catalog, check out your new favorite coming-of-age song "Silver Tongues." Other favorites include "Only the Brave," "Lucky Again," and "Out of my System."

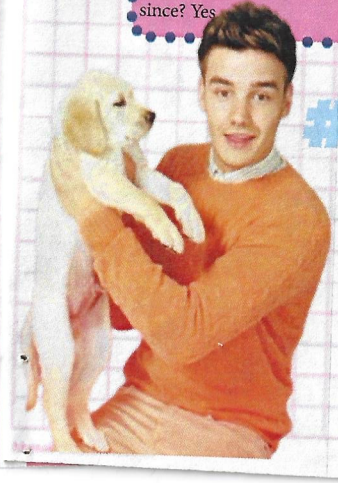
#3 Harry Styles

You may be offended that Harry is so far down on this list, but hear me out. The first Harry album blew my mind. The release of "Sign of the Times" was a monumental occasion. Since then: the song "Watermelon Sugar" — STRIKE ONE. Don't Worry Darling — STRIKE TWO. Harry saying that "this doesn't happen to people like me very often" when he won the Grammy... STRIKE THREE! At the end of the day, I love him. Photos of him are up on my wall, but I feel as though he is not the best member of One Direction. His music is not the best, his fan base is not the best, and I want more from him than the cranking out of bubblegum pop music. That being said, the best Harry song is "Ever Since New York" (says the gal who has heard the song live in New York). Other favorites are the ever endearing "Sweet Creature," hippie-classic "Canyon Moon," and the vulnerable and earnest "Matilda."

Zayn Malik #4



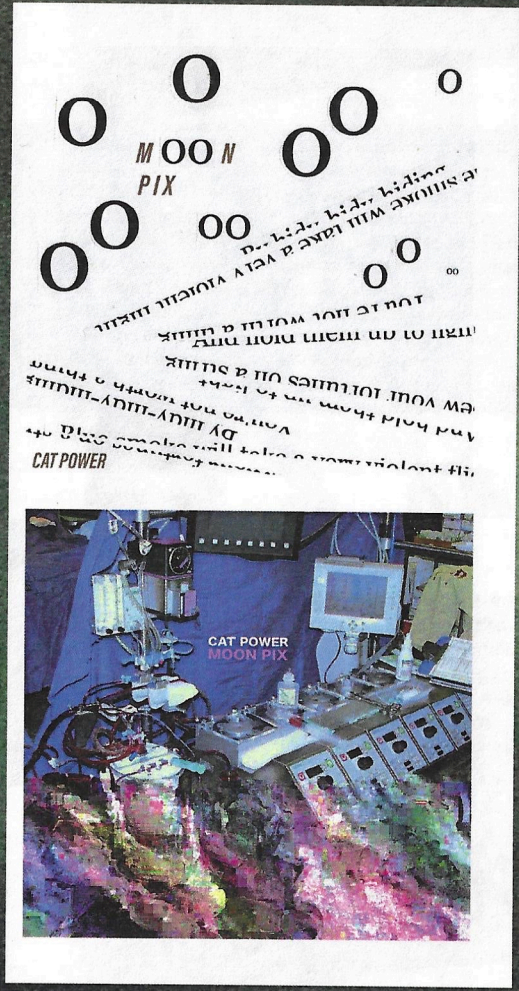
Don't punch the grandmother of your child and then we will move you up on this list Zayn... he lives deep in the woods of Pennsylvania now? Went on the Call Her Daddy podcast? He's in his #random era I guess. Can you argue his music is objectively better than his ranking? Sure. I really haven't gotten over the whole punching-Gigi-Hadid's-mom thing. Was I extremely distraught the day he left One Direction and have suffered from abandonment issues ever since? Yes.



#5 Liam Payne

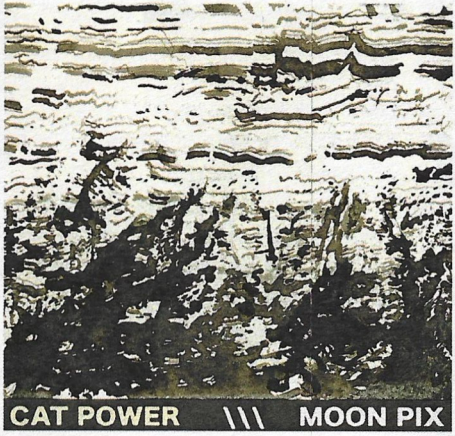
Cringe lord 3000. I will not elaborate.

Alternate Album Covers



By June Su

"Moon Pix" by Cat Power

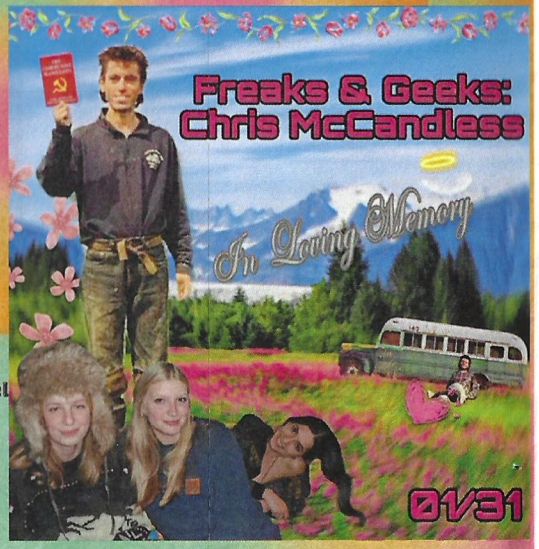


"Moon Pix" by Cat Power

Rapture, Blondie
My Iron Lung, Radiohead
Bliss, Yung Lean and FKA twigs
Social Climber, Crocodylus
Psycho Killer, Talking Heads
Baby Britain, Elliot Smith
Miss Maggie, Renaud
Flesh without Blood, Grimes
New Bitch, Iggy Azalea
Forest Green, Odd Future and Mike G
Paper Gangsta, Lady Gaga
You Lose, Ecoo2K, Bladee and Thaiboy D
Muzzle, Destroy Boys
The Modern Age, The Strokes
Margaret on the Guillotine, Morissey

Freaks & Geeks

Fall 2021 - Spring 2024



Flagpole Sitta, Harvey Danger
Magic Bus, The Who
Ramblin' On My Mind, Robert Johnson
Eisler on the Go, Billy Bragg and Wilco
Nevada, Citizens' Utilities
Mama Tried, Merle Haggard
King of the Road, Roger Miller
Where You Gonna Be, Charlie Parr
King of Carrot Flowers Pt. 1, Neutral Milk Hotel
Chinatown, Jets to Brazil
Someone Great, LCD Soundsystem
Buildings Are the Cages, Hackensaw Boys
Take 'Em Away, Old Crow Medicine Show
Back Home Again, John Denver

Troublemaker, Weezer
Paranoid, Black Sabbath
Your Cover's Blown, Belle and Sebastian
How to Disappear Completely, Radiohead
Hacker, Death Grips
Destroyer, The Kinks
Computer World, Kraftwerk
Time, Ecco2k
Baby I'm Bleeding, JPEGMAFIA
The Kids Aren't Alright, The Offspring
Reel By Reel, XTC
Fake You Out, Twenty One Pilots
Every Breath You Take, The Police
Hey Big Man, 100 gecs

A Midwesterner, a comedian, and a film major make hypothetical playlists for historical figures.

Trip, Yung Lean
G Funk Intro, Snoop Dogg
Mary Jane, Rick James
Smoke Two Joints, Sublime
:(, The Garden
The Price of Smokes, The Chats
Crumblin' Erb, Outkast
Burfict!, JPEGMAFIA and Danny Brown
Trendy, Bladee
Blunt Blowin, Lil Wayne
Because I Got High, Afroman
Sweet Jane, The Velvet Underground
Martha My Dear, The Beatles
Hcapd, Odd Future
Welcome to the World of the Plastic Beach, Gorillaz, Hypnotic Brass Ensemble and Snoop Dogg
One Spliff A Day, Billy Boyo

Haikus
by Matthew Held

Moan Right In My Ear
Beautiful British Crooner
King Krule My Dear Love

Westside Gunn Adlibs
Ayo Boo Boo Boo Boo Boo BOOM
Pray For Paris Please

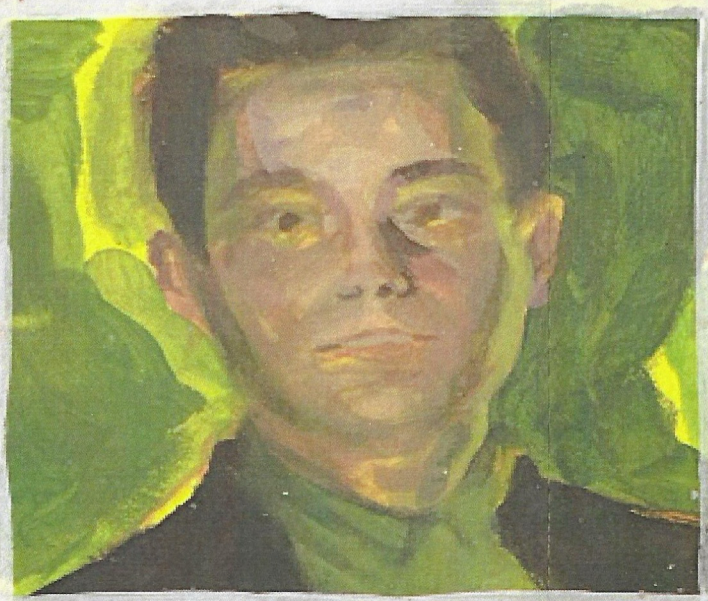
Sweet, Smooth Meow Like Chords
Serenade Me Thundercat
Epic Six String Bass

OH NO PEGGY WHY
ALL MY HEROES ARE CORNBALLS
PLEASE STOP BEING CRINGE

Songbird
By Olive Lawrence

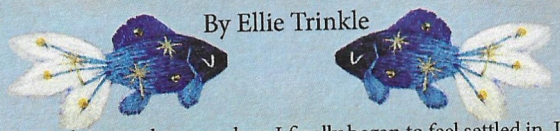
My sister is a songbird.
Words fly from her lips
to her pen on the page
and back to her lips
and I sit at her feet
and I have no words,
because my sister is a songbird.
And songbirds mesmerize
and hypnotize
until there are no thoughts,
just song.
And jealousy consumes me
because with my pen on the page
I can create rhymes with my words
but those words will never be song.
So I'll put my words aside
and I'll listen to hers,
to the words of my sister the songbird.

"Interview 2016" by Death Grips
By June Su



A Song for Each Month of Sophomore Year

By Ellie Trinkle



Sophomore year was a whirlwind. It was the year where I finally began to feel settled in. It was my second time packing up my life to move into a dorm, my second time locking myself in Davis for hours on end to complete my seemingly endless assignments, and my second time understanding what it means to be at Middlebury and take up space here.

It was also the year where a lot of new things happened, some of them exceptionally joyful, some of them supremely disappointing and terrible, and some of them somewhere in between.

Since August of 2021, I have been making monthly playlists to track the songs that consumed my mind and either helped me cope with what was going on around me, or sent me into an even deeper spiral. Either way, music is my favorite part of my day; I listen to it as frequently as I can because it is just so intimate. My favorite songs know me better than anyone else does, and the monthly playlists I make are a display of all my emotions, chaotically compiled into little time capsules.

As the year comes to an end, I can't get this image of my childhood bookshelf out of my head. Specifically, how "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" by Dr.Suess used to live there. Something about that phrase feels like it really encapsulates my year. I am not leaving school more well-traveled, but rather "the places" I'm referring to are the relationships I strengthened, the adventures I went on, and the overall experiences I got to have. I'm feeling so incredibly grateful, but it definitely took a handful of monthly playlists piled high with a variety of different emotions to get to this point. So, I thought I'd look back — before I start looking forward to everything else that awaits me — and pick one song from my monthly playlists that really encapsulated each month of my Sophomore year.

September: At Home by Slow Pulp

I was feeling quite nostalgic as I packed my life away in boxes and reunited with the boxes I had left over the Summer in Vermont. Everything was the same except some things had been covered in dust and were slightly damp (Vermont Summer flooding will do that to ya). And yet, I knew that I was going to be alright because I'd done the exact same thing last year when I moved to Middlebury for the very first time.

Anyways, when I think of Sophomore year in general, I think of Slow Pulp because this was the year I truly explored their discography. I've carried this song with me throughout the year, but I think I first declared my obsession for it in September. "Should I try all over again?" the song laments. I remember as I approached a new year, I was conflicted with whether or not I should begin anew or instead try and write over some old things to make them feel new. This song felt especially relevant to the anticipation I was experiencing. Beyond its lyrics that punch you right in the gut, its instrumentals are very atmospheric and all-consuming. It's a song that invites you to listen a bit closer than the last. It's a song that takes latches onto you so that you can never forget it. It's a song you can fall face first into.

October: Spit on a Stranger by Pavement

This is honestly kind of always a prominent song in my life when October rolls around. October is so romantic; the leaves are all different shades of red, there's a strange sweetness in the air, you settle into a routine but find ways to keep things exciting when you can, and everything is on the cusp of change (but not so much that it feels overwhelming).

This song is that fresh-October-rain-smell. It's about when you cross paths with a stranger and you're unsure if or how or when they'll fit into your life. The speaker is bitter, and so is this stranger he just met, but he finds something strikingly sweet in their exchange. He can't quite put his finger on it, but he hopes that the stranger will fit into his life somehow, in some capacity.

That's what October felt like to me: bitter and hopeful and strangely sweet. I was settling back in, but there was something so exciting about it all.

November: NITRO GIRLS 2 by Dean Blunt and Joanne Robertson

I regard November as a pretty silly month, I was really getting into my classes and just bopping around! My "Have A Cigar" co host/bestie (shameless self-promo/hype up) Violet Gordon and I did a Halloween themed show back in October, and she played this song and put me on to it. I listened to it all the time in November and it's very short and mellow but there's also something very fun about it.

November is when winter quickly creeps up on you, and it's hard not to mourn warmer weather and longer days, but it's also when all the great parts about winter start to begin (ridiculous amounts of hot chocolate, time in the snow, etc.) and this song perfectly encapsulates that bittersweet feeling.

December: Love by The Sundays

"Love, just love yourself like no one else / Love, it's enough / They can say what they like but they still can't take that" the chorus declares. I was caught up in a lot of things in December, and whenever that happens I always find it helpful to take a step back and remember the things I'm grateful for and all the awesome people I have in my life. This song helped me to do just that.

The Sundays are no strangers to creating songs that are heartbreaking in their lyrics, yet whimsical in their instrumentals. This song is no exception; the speaker laments about the struggle to love yourself while also recognizing how important it is.

This song soundtracked the snow falling, the Amtrak ride home for winter break, and all of the difficult yet beautiful parts that made up my November. It's one of those songs that just scratches the right part of your brain and comes into your life right when you need it most. It's one of those "how the fuck did the Spotify algorithm know exactly what I needed?" moments.

January: Call For Help by Pearly Drops

Ahhhh January, a new year! And also J-Term, where a whole lot of lollygagging occurs. Though I engaged in a series of lollygags, my main one was arguably purchasing a DJ board (BOO!). As a result, I started getting even more into the wonderfully scary world of electronic music (EEK!) and this song was a big part of that journey and coincidentally the first song I ever mixed.

This song is sensational. It's the kind you can just casually turn on to listen to but as soon as you do it completely consumes you. It swallows you whole, but in an enjoyable way and you just have to keep listening to it again and again and...again. I still haven't gotten tired of listening to this song, it's so bright and it fizzles and it's just... superb.

I love this song so incredibly much I even named one of my radio shows this semester after it (self-promo again I deeply apologize), so if that doesn't indicate my adoration for it then I'm not sure what will. Basically, you must listen to this song (if you haven't already) because it was my perfect January song, and honestly is just a phenomenal song in general.

February: Tupelo Honey by Van Morrison

February is when the snow starts to feel burdening, winter feels neverending, and the cold feels impossible to deal with. This song is pure lightness and sunshine and all things warm and great. It was a lovely contrast to the darkness and stress that February brought.

It's a love song where the speaker is comparing his lover to tupelo honey; which is one of the rarest forms of honey in the world known for its sweet, floral taste. Perhaps it's a very cliched metaphor, comparing a lover to honey, but I think that's why it works so well. Plus, this song's gentle acoustics add to its overall ambience, creating a sound that is so buttery and alluring (much like tupelo honey itself!).

For the shortest month, I had this very long song on repeat, and it was nothing short of glorious.

March: A Cold Sunday by Lil Yachty

A stark contrast to "Tupelo Honey" and its almost 7 minute long duration is this song, which doesn't even touch 2 minutes. March is when the promise of spring finally starts to arise, only this year we were met with many false springs. This song is so groovy and the backing-instrumental sound like a rainy day where you relinquish all of your responsibilities and just lay low.

It's a very addicting listen and soundtracked many of my frantic walks around campus in the ever-changing March weather, and helped to remind me that warmer days were on the horizon.

April: Medicine by Momma

Looking back at my April playlist was honestly a bit terrifying to do because there are so many songs on it so it was definitely a challenge to decide which one encapsulated the month the most, but after some careful deliberation, I finally reached an answer.

"Medicine" was—and still is—on repeat constantly. It's about being addicted to someone, and it's grungy and upbeat and intoxicating to listen to. The lyrics are interesting and fun, but the song really shines in its two guitar riffs. They ooze a certain lust and vulnerability that is hard to capture purely through instrumentals, but Momma nails it perfectly in this song.

Love as a drug is a common metaphor, but here it is used in a positive way, depicting a love that is addictive because of its delicacy—which is emphasized through the contrast between the darker instrumentals and softer lyrics.

This song perfectly soundtracked the blissful chaos that was my April and even now I still can't stop listening to it, it might even be my song of the year…I'll keep you posted.

May: All My Friends by LCD Soundsytem

Obviously when I'm writing this it is still May, so I'm choosing the song that has thus far encapsulated my May. I had a huge rediscovery with this song this month and it's been on repeat. It has this crazy piano that feels like running around and never tiring out. It's a song about making bad decisions, being a bit reckless. But—the song suggests—rather than regretting these bad decisions, it is better to accept that they've made you the person you are today.

It's very youthful, and since this May is the month I will be leaving my teenage years behind, it feels very fitting that this song has been so prevalent in my life, and I'm sure it will continue to be.

So there you have it, my Sophomore year through music. Some parts were hysterically bad, others were filled with so much joy and kindness, and all of it was certainly memorable, which I guess is really all you can ask for. And with that, it's time for me to sign off, see you next spring WRMC!

"When I Get Home" by Solange
By June Su

EXOSKELETAL

12-1 p.m.

SUNDAY

WRMC

with that, it's time for me to sign off.

"ELVIS IN HELL" REVISITED

picking up where Donna Tartt's zine left off

OH DEAR LORD FATHER GOD JESUS ALMIGHTY I know it ain't your fault and lord knows I ain't blaming you But you see ...

there's actors that done got my turn of phrase stuck to the roof of their mouth just like that peanut butter sandwich story I can't well shake clean off and well you see white suits and blue suede shoes are damn sticky in hellfire, *Mama* I'm stinkin' of brimstone ain't that a lot for a man who just shook his hips and done rustled up a girl Yes *Father* I done knowing she was a girl goddammit why won't women leave a good man be, *Mama* they done made another movie 'bout me and it ain't so kind like *Father* why can't no boy be free from his own actions *MAMA* I never did nothing but hate like you done taught me like a good child of *GOD* did you cast me out 'cause I was their favorite 'cause I done did the sin of being a false idol 'cause them can't help fallin' in love with imperfection personified 'cause they like hatin' you almost as much as they enjoy chewin' the fat right off me *Mama* I- I- I am eternal,

and Judas done told me he's a real right bonafide fan.

BY KATHRYN PLUMB

Submissions are open for...

FM-PHASIS

WRMC's VERY OWN ZINE!!!

Submissions close march 29th!!

SUBMIT TO:

GO/FMPHASIS !!!!

Writing!
Art!
Playlists!
Photography!

In Defense of

addison rae

and her rise to Hyperpop fame

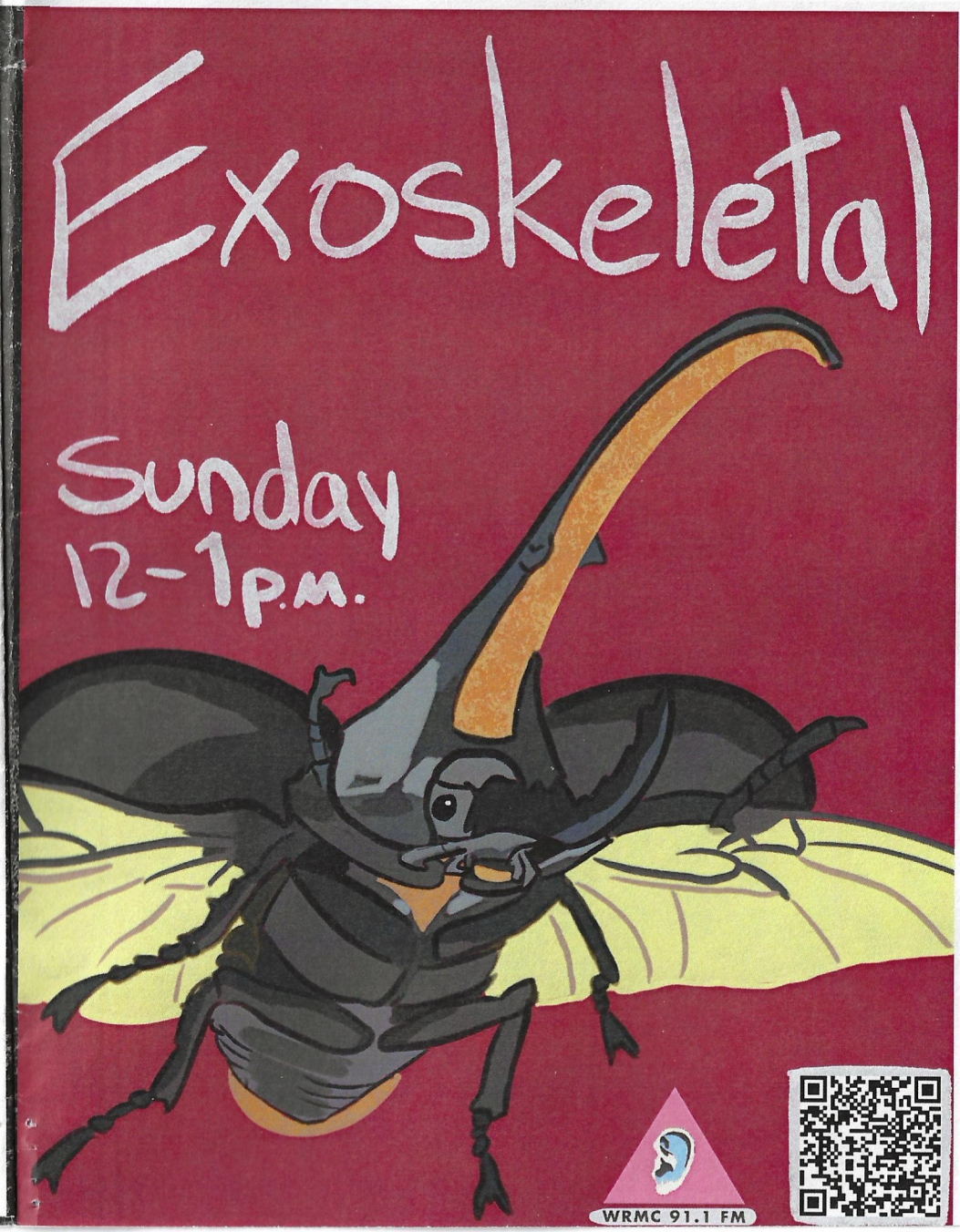
by Margaux Joly

Addison Rae's emergence onto the musical scene was not received with high praise. She released her first single in March of 2021 titled "Obsessed," which received extremely mixed reviews. Very few embraced the song's dance pop energy, and instead criticized the Tik Tok star for becoming one of the many influencers to jump into music, claiming she had no future in a music career. However, thankfully for us, Addison Rae did not let the negative reviews get to her head, because after a brief leave of absence in which her Tik Tok fame seemed to dwindle, Addison released her EP "AR," in which she jumped headfirst into the pop genre.

The EP received acclaim from critics at Billboard, Pitchfork, and even Rolling Stone, surprising the many who expected her music to be a flop. However, as people began to listen to her music ironically, it quickly amassed an audience in the queer hyper-pop audience, in part due to Addison's collaboration with Charli XCX on "2 die 4." Charli's feature on this track adds to the track's maturity, different from what may have been expected from Addison. Being a Tik Tok star, with a largely young audience, many would assume that Addison might dumb down her music to be more child appropriate. Instead, Addison created music that was crafted to her own and her older fans' tastes.

The other tracks from the EP fit within this same vibe, particularly "I got it bad," in which she describes the ultimate boy-crush obsession, effectively placing herself among other pop icons such as Britney Spears, and "Nothing On (But The Radio)," which was notably cut from Lady Gaga's ARTPOP album.

Since the release of her EP, Addison has fully immersed herself in the hyperpop sphere. She appeared at Charli's Boiler Room Set in New York City in February, and was just recently featured on a remix of Charli's lead single "Von dutch" alongside A.G. Cook, who has produced multiple of Charli's tracks off of her last album. Addison's improvised adlibs bring this remix to life, as well as her higher register, which contrasts and blends perfectly with Charli XCX's voice.

One can only hope that their creative collaboration continues, especially with Charli XCX's newly announced shows this summer. However, one thing is for sure: Addison Rae has entered the hyperpop genre and doesn't seem ready to leave any time soon.

Brave, Lucky Again, and